

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1-24 as set forth below:

1. (currently amended) A method of preventing a client from directly contacting a server that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, comprising:

~~determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server,~~ whether said client's request to receive ~~[[said]]~~ a file from said content server originated as a reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of a set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server; and

responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the content server originated ~~did not originate~~ as the reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content server ~~did originate~~ originated as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a user of the client.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4, ~~further comprising wherein said set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server is a first set and said method further comprises:~~

offering in one of a second set consisting of the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server and the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

6. (currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 4, further comprising:~~ Claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server further comprises offering in the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server. determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server, whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The method of ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.

9. (currently amended) A machine-readable medium having a plurality of instructions processable by a machine embodied therein, wherein said plurality of instructions, when processed by said machine, causes said machine to perform a method for preventing a client from directly contacting a server that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, said method comprising:

~~determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server,~~ whether said client's request to receive ~~[[said]]~~ a file from said content server originated as a reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of a set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server; and

responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the content server originated ~~did not originate~~ as the reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server.

10. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content server did originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

11. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a user of the client.

12. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

13. (currently amended) The machine-readable medium of Claim 12, ~~further comprising wherein said set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server is a first set and said method further comprises:~~

offering in ~~one of a second set consisting of~~ the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server ~~and the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server~~ a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

14. (currently amended) The machine-readable medium of ~~Claim 12;~~ Claim 9, wherein the step of determining whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server further comprises determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server, whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server. ~~said method further comprising: offering in the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.~~

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) The machine-readable medium of ~~Claim 15~~Claim 9, said method further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.

17. (currently amended) A system of preventing a client from directly contacting a server that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, comprising:

means for determining, ~~based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server,~~ whether ~~[[said]]~~ a client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of a set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server;

means for, responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the content server originated ~~did not originate~~ as the reference from ~~[[one]]~~ neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server.

18. (previously presented) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

means for, responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content server originated ~~did not originate~~ as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

19. (original) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

means, included in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a user of the client.

20. (original) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

means, offered in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, to update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

21. (currently amended) The system of Claim 20, ~~further comprising wherein said set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server is a first set and said system further comprises:~~

means, offered in one of a second set consisting of the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server and the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server, means for updating the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

22. (currently amended) The system of ~~Claim 20, further comprising:~~ Claim 17, wherein the ~~means for determining whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server further comprises means, offered in the means for updating the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server, for updating the bookmark file to exclude the content server.~~ means for determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server, whether said client's request to receive said file from said content server originated as a reference from neither of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The system of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 17, further comprising:

means, included in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.